

shall establish a policy for the transmission from any element of the Department of Defense as expeditiously as possible to the Secretary of Defense and the Joint Chiefs of Staff of any report, assessment, or evaluation commissioned from any level within the Department of Defense that results in the identification of any of the items on the list required by subsection (a). As part of that policy, the Secretary should establish a timetable for transmission of any such report, assessment, or evaluation to the responsible major command upon receipt of the final document by the commissioning authority.

(d) **TIME FOR ISSUANCE OF GUIDANCE.**—The Secretary of Defense shall establish the list required by subsection (a) and issue the guidance required by that subsection not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 648, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MEEK) and a Member opposed each will control 10 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MEEK).

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

First of all, I am so appreciative here tonight. I want to thank the gentleman from California (Chairman HUNTER) and also the gentleman from Missouri (Ranking Member SKELTON) for the work that both their staffs have put on this amendment.

In the Committee on Armed Services we had great discussions about some of the testimony we heard from Joint Chief of Staff Myers and also from Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld about some of the issues that happened in Iraq that did not necessarily make it to the top of the chain of command, but they were committed to making sure that we correct those inequities within the DoD chain of command.

What this amendment does that I am offering today is making sure that the critical information from the theater moves up to the Pentagon when that information warrants.

It requires the Secretary to make sure that he identifies what kind of information he needs to know to determine the information that is critical to the strategic plan in theater, giving instructions to personnel on how to identify that information when they see it, and allow it to make it to the Secretary for them to determine how to deal with it in a timely manner.

The Secretary will also deem what is important information and what is not important information. This is basically giving some level of direction and a great deal of discretion to the Secretary, but making sure that this information can get to the Secretary's desk as soon as possible.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON).

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Chairman, let me take a moment. I rise in support of this amendment offered by my good friend from Florida.

When the Secretary of Defense appeared before the House Committee on

Armed Services testifying about the prison abuses, he stated he could not possibly monitor each of the thousands of ongoing cases which might be important enough to warrant his needed attention. He does not need to do that. He needs to monitor only those ones that have potential strategic impact; and during that hearing and in subsequent discussions and investigations, it has become apparent that he has no mechanism to lift those sorts of matters to his attention expeditiously.

The gentleman from Florida's (Mr. MEEK) amendment does just that, and I support it.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER).

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Chairman, I want to say I do not think we need to take time on this side except to just say I think we have got a good work product here, and I think this reflects some pretty good bipartisan work in what are fairly useful sessions where we have briefings by SEC DEF and the other relevant leadership in DoD.

He brought up the fact, and we talked about the fact, that in the Abu Ghraib prison situation you had General Sanchez starting an investigation immediately after the soldier came forward, and the investigation proceeded apace; and under the UCMJ, the prosecutions proceeded apace; but nobody flagged this as something of particularly extraordinary or explosive impact. So we did not have a system that flagged something.

In this age of television and instant communications, these pictures were out in the press before SEC DEF knew about it or we knew about it or other people knew about it.

So I think this is a good result of the gentleman understanding that, talking it back and forth with DoD. The gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON) worked on it, and we looked at it and worked on it; and I think the gentleman has a good work product here. It is a way in which they can do essentially what I understand the Air Force has right now, which is when you have something that could have enormous impact, it is flagged up the line so the Secretary and the other leadership can act on it.

I think the gentleman has done a good job, and I appreciate his thoughtfulness and his hard work on the committee; and I think this is a good amendment.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I just want to say, Mr. Chairman, that I appreciate the insight, also the insight from the gentleman's staff and the Democratic staff here. This is working towards definitely troop protection in theater and making sure that at the highest levels of the Pentagon that there are some criteria of what is critical to strategic planning and troops in theater.

So I want to thank the Chairman for his help.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. Does any Member claim time in opposition to the amendment?

The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MEEK).

The amendment was agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 6 printed in House Report 108-499.

AMENDMENT NO. 6 OFFERED BY MR. HASTINGS OF FLORIDA

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The Chairman pro tempore. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 6 offered by Mr. HASTINGS of Florida:

At the end of subtitle A of title XII (page 424, after line 12), insert the following new section:

SEC. . SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF IRAQ.

It is the sense of Congress that—

No funds available to any department or agency of the United States Government may be used to provide assistance for the reconstruction of Iraq unless the President certifies to Congress that the United States Government has entered into an agreement with the Iraqi Governing Council or a transitional government in Iraq under which Iraq agrees that it will expend a significant portion of its revenues generated from oil production for reconstruction activities in Iraq.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 648, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS) and a Member opposed each will control 10 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS).

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER), the chairman of the Committee on Rules, for working with me to make this amendment in order; and I commend the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER), the chairman of the Committee on Armed Services; and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON), the distinguished ranking member, my very good friend, for the work that they have done on this entire bill.

Mr. Chairman, we can all agree wholeheartedly that supporting our soldiers and providing them what they need to get the job done is our highest priority. However, there are some other important matters that must also be addressed regarding the National Defense Authorization Act, issues that the American people want to hear about.

From the President on down to many of us, we have the view that Iraq could fund its own reconstruction. Prior to the war, the Secretary of Defense and his deputy testified to Congress that a war in Iraq and subsequent reconstruction costs could be financed by oil profits in Iraq.